



News Release

US Army Corps of Engineers

Los Angeles District
Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 532711
Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325

05-05	17 January 2005	Immediate
Release No.	Date	For Release

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PRADO DAM UPDATE Noon, 17 January 2005

LOS ANGELES - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contractor has repaired the minor seepage that was discovered on January 13th on the downstream face of Prado Dam and reduced the amount of water behind the dam. The Corps was constantly monitored and took precautionary measures since the discovery. The dam is located within the borders of both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties at the juncture of I-71 and I-91 near the city of Corona.

The increased releases of water have lowered the reservoir pool level to elevation 505 feet as of 1000 a.m. January 17th. The outflow is currently being stepped down at 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) increments every half hour and will be maintained at 5,000 cfs until the water surface elevation is at 498 feet, which is expected later this week.

The recent storms produced near record pool levels behind Prado Dam. The reservoir water surface elevation behind Prado Dam peaked at on January 11th at 527.4 feet above sea level. When the seepage was discovered, the Corps increased the release of water from the dam from 5,000 to 10,000 cubic feet per second to bring down the level of water behind the Prado Dam as rapidly as possible. In addition, the Corps began holding back floodwaters at both the San Antonio Dam and Seven Oaks Dam upstream to reduce the inflow of water to Prado Dam.

As the water level behind the dam was lowered it reduced the hydraulic pressure on the dam abutment that caused the seepage. Water was being lowered on both sides of the cofferdam that was constructed to protect the new outlet works construction area from winter floods. The Corps' contractor is using six large pumps to draw down the water in the construction pit and is expected to resume work as soon as the area is dry enough to allow heavy equipment back in.

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PRADO DAM CONSTRUCTION GO TO

<http://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Pradodam/pradodam.htm>